

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19873

This legislation will better protect Idaho's students and school districts from certificated school employees with a history of poor job performance or violating their professional code of ethics. It will make it easier for Idaho to reject certification for teachers and school administrators who have negative conditions attached to their certificates, or who are under investigation for ethical violations against their state's professional code of conduct, until all conditions and investigations are cleared. Too often, Idaho is a "soft landing" for individuals who have ethical problems, because Idaho's chief certification officer currently lacks the authority to deny an application for a certificate from such an individual.

This legislation also states that school districts may no longer enter into any agreement that has the effect of concealing negative information about job performance or misconduct. It further requires that new job applicants must allow a hiring school district to have access to any previous school district's records related to the employee's job performance or job-related conduct. These past school districts are then given immunity from liability for disclosing such information.

FISCAL NOTE

No fiscal impact to the General Fund.

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